

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, July 21, 2008**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting room on Monday, July 21, 2008 at the standing time of 7:10 o'clock p.m.

Roll Call: Mark A. Herak; Brian Novak, Konnie Kuiper, and Bernie Zemen were present. Councilor Dan Vassar was absent owing to the Indiana State Little League Tournament. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings. A quorum was attained.

Also present:

Alex M. Brown, CPRP, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation; Cecile Petro, Redevelopment Director; Kenneth Balon, Police Pension Secretary and William R. Timmer, Jr., CFOD, Fire Chief were also present.

Griffith Clerk-Treasurer Ron Szafarczyk; Griffith Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Michelle Ciucki; Schererville Clerk-Treasurer Janice Malinowski; Whiting Clerk-Treasurer Mark Adam; Cedar Lake Clerk-Treasurer Amy Sund; and Cedar Lake Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Margaret Nagy were also present.

Tom Bredeweg of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns was present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. Tom Bredeweg of the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns made a Power Point assisted presentation regarding the effects upon the budget process owing to HEA 1001. The Town Council as well as the other officials and department heads present informally discussed matters related to the presentation.

Among the points in the presentation Mr. Bredeweg discussed the particular effects of the so-called "circuit breaker", as well as the estimates prepared by the Legislative Services Agency regarding collections in FY 2008, FY 2009 and FY 2010.

Mr. Bredeweg explained that with hard tax caps represented as circuit breakers, any increase in spending by overlapping jurisdictions will have the effect of reducing revenues for all units. He also discussed the distress unit appeals board.

Mr. Bredeweg further explained the provisions for requirement to file budgets with the Lake County in order to allow it to make a non-binding recommendation regarding it. All civil units except schools have this requirement.

Mr. Bredeweg noted that in Lake County, a special provision in the law dealing with the allowable growth quotient for the controlled levies, renders for all civil governments except schools a growth quotient of 1 unless and until a LOIT tax is adopted at the rate of 1%.

2. The Town Council discussed the proposed agenda items for the Town Council meeting of July 28, 2008.

The Town Council and the Redevelopment Director discussed the proposed initiative to allow tax abatement for the site of the Aide Rentals on Kennedy Avenue.

3. The Town Council discussed the long-term proposal to extend Kennedy Avenue to U.S. 30.

4. The Town Council and the Redevelopment Director discussed the prospects for acquiring the former City Sales Building located in the Industrial Park, to be used as the new Public Works facility.
5. The Town Council and the Redevelopment Director noted that a trip to Mishawaka was being planned for August 5 in order to permit the Town Council to review the development work of one of the developers expressing interest in the Kennedy Avenue Corridor and the site of the Public Works Facility.
6. The Town Council discussed the possible relocation of the administration offices to the Girl Scout building on the 2900 block of Highway Avenue.

There were no further discussions or any further matters before the Town Council. The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland of **Monday, July 21, 2008** was adjourned at 9:20 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/CMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer